

Appl. No.: 10/088,280
Response dated November 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 20, 2004

Remarks

Claims 11-13, 15-23, and 25-30 are pending in this application.

The claims have been amended to more particularly point out and clearly define what Applicants consider to be their invention.

As presently claimed, the invention is a detergent tablet containing from 0.1% to 10% by weight of a non-enzymatic protein and/or derivative thereof.

Claim 21 has been amended to indicate that the composition is a tablet containing a non-enzymatic protein in an amount of from about 0.1% to 10% by weight based on the weight of the table. The remaining claims have been amended to change the term "composition" to "tablet". The amendments to the claims are fully supported in the specification and claims as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims be entered at this time since they place the application in condition for allowance or substantially reduce the issues for appeal.

Before discussing the rejections over the prior art, Applicants deem it prudent to set forth what they consider to be their invention. As presently claimed, the invention is a detergent tablet comprising (a) surfactant component; (b) a non-enzymatic protein and/or derivative thereof in an amount thereof from about 0.1% to 10% by weight based on the weight of the tablet; (c) a zeolite; and (d) a disintegrating agent.

The disintegrating agent is critical to the composition since it is well known in the art that detergent tablets generally require relatively long periods of time to dissolve and without a disintegrating agent are not satisfactory for use in home washing machines.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as obvious over De 3228479 as embodied in US 4,761,161. Applicants respectfully submit that DE '479 neither teaches nor suggests

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the present invention.

The Examiner indicates that DE '479 discloses a powder detergent formulation comprising a non-enzymatic protein such as 5-30% casein; zeolite, 5-15% alkali silicate; cellulose derivatives; 15-25% alkylbenzene sulphonate; and other auxiliary agents. The Examiner directs Applicants to the abstract of DE '479 wherein said abstract specifically states the use of cellulose derivatives at line 3.

Applicants respectfully submit that DE '479 neither teaches nor suggests the use of a disintegrating agent which can be a material other than a cellulose derivative. Applicants submit that introducing a disintegrating agent into a detergent composition requires that there be something to disintegrate. In the detergent composition disclosed in DE '479, the detergent composition is a mixture of various powders including carboxymethyl cellulose as an anti-graying agent. Since the detergent composition in DE '479 is in the form of a mixed powder, there is nothing for the disintegrating agent to disintegrate. Therefore, there is no disintegrating agent in the composition of DE '479.

In addition, DE '479 clearly states that carboxy methyl cellulose (a cellulose derivative) is utilized in the composition as an anti-graying agent. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that DE '479 neither teaches nor suggests the tablet of the present invention.

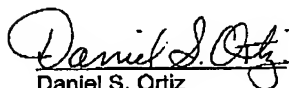
If carboxy methyl cellulose were utilized in the present invention, it would be a disintegrating agent for a tablet. However, since DE '479 does not comprise anything which can be disintegrated, Applicants respectfully submit that the same carboxy methyl cellulose could not be a disintegrating agent in the composition of DE '479.

In view of the amendments entered in the claims and the above discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and

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favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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